

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 /067 W

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P R 171015Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8919

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

DIA WASHDC

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

AMCONSUL NAPLES

AMCONSUL MILAN

USDOCOSOUTH

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 11546

USDOCOSOUTH FOR INTAF

SHAPE FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: ANDREOTTI BEGINS HIS EFFORT TO FORM GOVERNMENT

REF: ROME 11445

SUMMARY: WITH DC PARTY SECRETARY ZACCAGNINI HAVING STRONGLY REAFFIRMED PARTY'S UNCOMPROMISING POSITION ON FORMAL PCI PARTICIPATION, ANDREOTTI BEGAN HIS CONSULTATIONS JULY 16 WITH LEADERS OF ALL PARTIES SAVE THE EXTREME RIGHT AND LEFT IN EFFORT TO FORM NEW GOVERNMENT. WHILE NO ONE CAN FORESEE HOW
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LONG PROCESS WILL TAKE, MOST LIKELY OUTCOME NOW APPEARS TO BE

FORMATION OF AN INTERIM MINORITY DC GOVERNMENT BEFORE AUGUST 15 HOLIDAY PERIOD TO WHICH SOCIALISTS COULD LEND OUTSIDE SUPPORT. END SUMMARY.

1. IN A POLICY ADDRESS JULY 15 WHICH WAS LATER UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED BY THE DC DIRECTORATE, PARTY SECRETARY ZACCAGNINI BROKE NO NEW GROUND. HE AGAIN FLATLY REJECTED THE PCI'S CALL FOR A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY (WHICH WOULD INCLUDE ALL PARTIES EXCEPT THE EXTREMES OF THE RIGHT AND LEFT). INSTEAD, THE PARTY LEADER CALLED ON THE COMMUNISTS TO PARTICIPATE IN PROGRAMS TO OVERCOME THE CURRENT CRISIS AS MEMBERS OF A "RESPONSIBLE" OPPOSITION. ZACCAGNINI NEVERTHELESS ASSERTED THAT SINCE THE JUNE 20 ELECTION RESULTS DIDN'T OFFER MUCH LATITUDE FOR "PREDETERMINED GOVERNMENT FORMULAS", A NEW GOVERNMENT MAJORITY MUST BE BASED ON A PROGRAM, WHICH CAN HOWEVER ALSO BE TOLERATED BY THE COMMUNISTS (WHOSE ELECTORAL STRENGTH MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT).

2. AFTER RECEIVING FULL PARTY SUPPORT TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT, ANDREOTTI BEGAN SERIES OF INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS JULY 16 WITH ALL PARTIES EXCEPT RIGHTIST MSI AND THOSE OF THE EXTREME LEFT. ANDREOTTI MET FIRST (AND LONGEST) WITH THE SOCIALISTS WHO WERE INVITED TO JOIN THE GOVERNMENT. ALTERNATIVELY (AND THE FORMULA CONSIDERED MOST LIKELY), THE PSI WAS ASKED TO SUPPORT A DC "MONOCOLORE" CABINET IN WHICH "TECHNICIANS", IDENTIFIED WITH PSI, WOULD BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS. RESULTS OF THESE FIRST MEETINGS HAVE BEEN, AS EXPECTED, INCONCLUSIVE, BUT ALL PARTIES ARE LEAVING THE DOOR OPEN (E.G., BERLINGUER'S STATEMENT THAT PCI RESERVES ITS POSITION UNTIL IT HAS SEEN THE DC'S GOVERNMENTAL FORMULA). AFTER SCHEDULED MEETINGS MONDAY WITH TRADE UNIONS, ANDREOTTI WILL EMBARK ON A NEW SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH PARTY LEADERS.

3. AT MOMENT, IT APPEARS THAT PROCESS OF FORMING A NEW GOVERNMENT WILL REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE TIME, WITH AUGUST 15 HOLIDAY PROVIDING IMPETUS FOR COMPLETION. EMBASSY AND PRESS SOURCES ALIKE CONSIDER AS MOST LIKELY OUTCOME THE FORMATION OF AN INTERIM, MINORITY DC GOVERNMENT (WITH TECHNICIAN PARTICIPATION), WITH SOCIALISTS LENDING INDIRECT SUPPORT (THROUGH ABSTENTION). VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, CABINET, FORM OF GOVERNMENT, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ROME11546
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760276-0589
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760747/aaaabpgb.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ROME 11445
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <19 AUG 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANDREOTTI BEGINS HIS EFFORT TO FORM GOVERNMENT
TAGS: PINT, IT, (ANDREOTTI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006